

Response to Council Questions Re: New Interim Housing Sites:

The Mayor's Office of Homelessness Initiatives (MOCHI) wants to be clear that plans are rapidly being formulated and some changes have and will occur. These are the answers we have based on the information we have today The answers are subject to change.

Q: What are the staff needs for the site? What would be the expectation for District staff?

- RAP will be the City's lead agency for site staffing and operations. Through RAP's ongoing emergency preparedness work, all staff are trained in crisis shelter operations.
- We will augment RAP's staffing capacity with subject matter experts at each site with experience in the homeless services space, as well as a medical provider to ensure COVID-19 symptom monitoring is regular and robust.
- Ideally, Council staff would augment these operations with regional coordinators, will ensure that high-level and sensitive decision making is possible in alignment with the EOC operational model.
- Further discussion with district level council staff can be had- ideally, council staff could demonstrate a sense of leadership and authority and problem-solve issues that arise as we work to stand up the sites and establish a rhythm expeditiously

Q: What DSW trainings and public health protocol training will be provided for Council staff and can these be done remotely ahead of the site opening?

- We are currently finalizing training details with the Department of Public Health to provide training and ad hoc medical support at each of the sites. Site staff will be trained or have already been trained in "Homelessness 101", Shelter Operations, and Public Health COVID-19 training within congregate settings. We can try to work on remote trainings, TBD.

Q: What are the staffing plans for the sites? There was mention of assigning a certain number of DPH and LAHSA workers for each site - what will be the formula and how do you get to the 28 staff per site number?

- Based on consultation with LAHSA, a prototypical, 100 bed site would require 28 FTEs to operate 24 hours per day, seven (7) days per week. Our MOCHI team and LAHSA estimate that for each site, no more than two (2) staff with experience in the homeless services system would be needed for each site, the remaining 26 positions could be filled with staff from City facilities that have been closed. A total of up to 454 staff would be needed to staff the thirteen identified sites with 1,500 beds: 31 of these need experience in the homeless services system, 423 could be City staff. The first 13 sites will be staffed by RAP staff who have already undergone training for shelter operations training as they are the mass sheltering operations branch for the City in the case of a disaster. Our MOCHI team can provide further details as needed.

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Q: What will be the safety measures taken at each site? Will individuals be tested before entering the facility?

- We are focused on providing physical safety and public health safety.
- LAPD is committing two uniformed officers at each site, 24/7, to ensure the safety of clients, staff, and the surrounding community. LAPD is also evaluating the possibility of bringing their Security Services contractors who are currently not needed at closed public buildings on board at these sites.
- We are also working closely with DPH and LAHSA to ensure that all public health recommendations for operating an interim housing site during this pandemic are met. This will include temperature testing all program participants prior to site entry, including medical staff on site to closely monitor the health status of all participants, regularly disinfecting all surfaces, and maintaining social distancing inside the sites.

Q: Will people be searched for weapons/drugs before they enter the site?

- Each site will have two uniformed officers from LAPD on site 24/7 to ensure site safety. People are not searched for weapons now when they enter shelters, but informed that bringing weapons onsite is not allowed. We would follow the same program guidance used at existing shelters.

Q: Will social distancing be implemented at these locations?

- Yes. All sites will follow DPH recommendations to place cots no closer than 6 feet apart, and program staff will be focused on ensuring social distancing is maintained.

Q: Do we have enough gloves, sanitizers and other necessary resources for the sites?

- Procuring PP&E materials is a challenge across the board in our emergency response. Through LAHSA and other shelter partners, we have a stockpile of masks and cleaning supplies.
- The City is currently working through the EOC to expand the procurement of other critical materials, including gloves and thermometers.

Q: What does recruitment look like for homeless individuals?

- The City has instructed LAHSA to create a by-name-list of unsheltered individuals who are over the age of 55, have an acute underlying health condition, or are otherwise highly vulnerable. These individuals will be prioritized for placement into new shelter beds.

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Q: Will the facilities be on lock down or will people be able to walk around during the day?

- These programs will be open 24 hours a day to provide an indoor option for individuals. The City does not have the authority at this time to mandate that individuals remain indoors, but program staff will encourage clients to remain in place.

Q: Is there going to be storage on site?

- Yes, storage will be provided on site for individuals to place their belongings.

Q: Will there be opportunities for Safe Parking on site? Many recreation centers also have large parking lots.

- At this time, we are focused on providing care for people who have no form of shelter at this time. Because individuals dwelling in vehicles or RVs are able to practice social distancing, safe parking is not our priority at this time.

Q: Are homeless individuals who currently live in vehicles allowed to remain in their vehicles?

- Yes. Individuals dwelling in vehicles are able to maintain social distancing in their cars or RVs, which the City will support.

Q: Does moving them into shelter affect their acuity score and ability to secure more permanent living situations?

- No. Acuity scores, also known as the VI-SPDAT score, are determined based on personal characteristics including age, health condition, behavioral health and substance use history, income, and vulnerability.

Q: Why are we taking people from small camps and exposing them to more people and potentially more danger?

- On the guidance of DPH public health officials, we are moving the most at risk frail and elderly unsheltered individuals indoors where they will have improved access to sanitation and hygiene services. DPH has shared with the City that community transmission through encampments poses a greater threat to general public health than by bringing individuals indoors into controlled environments with hygiene facilities and rigorous health monitoring.

Q: Can we work with organizations like Midnight Mission to maximize even more beds?

- We welcome all forms of partnership. Please note that this program is intended to build on the services already provided by the Missions and other providers who are not currently able to meet the level of need on our streets.